SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

February 13th, 2022

We gather together
Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. and
Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

"The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, ***Sir, we would see JESUS****."*

(John 12:21)

JOSEPH D MURPHY, PASTOR

(832) 995 7925 / letters@sovereigngrace.us

SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

23033 HUGHEY LN, NEW CANEY, TEXAS 77357 / (832) 543-533
www.sovereigngracechurch.us

[READER,] If we have true fellowship with one another, it is because we worship the true and living God together (1 John 1:3). If we truly break bread together, it is because we are made of the same bread and body (1 Corinthians 10:17). If we truly pray together, it is because Christ has made us of one accord (Acts 1:14). It is a great privilege for brethren to worship together, talk to one another about our Master, observe the Lord's Table together, eat together, and pray together. May we always be reminded of the cause of all our *"spiritual blessings in heavenly places, IN CHRIST."* (Ephesians 1:3). — Kevin Thacker

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WELCOME

SINNERS are welcome at Sovereign Grace Church. We are a local body of the Lord Jesus Christ. As you spend time with us, you'll soon discover we're an imperfect assembly, with an imperfect pastor, yet by God's underserved grace, we preach, believe, and know the perfect gospel of our never failing Lord Jesus Christ. Reader, we call His name Jesus for He shall (not might, not maybe) rather He shall save His people from their sins. And beloved believing sinner you already know it you are *complete in Him*, saved to the *uttermost* [Colossians 2:10, Hebrews 7:25].

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sovereign Grace Conference
Friday, February 25th @ 7:30 PM, David Pledger & Kevin Thacker
Saturday, February 26th @ 10:30 AM, Kevin Thacker & David Pledger

conference.sovereigngrace.us

Happy Belated Birthday!
Vicky Hicks, February 20th

RESOURCES

BE sure to visit our websites for gospel articles, live messages, and resources.

Grace Articles

"Fear thou not…Fear not…Fear not"

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee…I will help thee…Fear not; I will help thee…Fear not, thou worm Jacob…I will help thee" (Isaiah 41:10-14)

THREE times in the above verses God says to His people, "Fear not!" Each time that He tells us not to fear, He also says: "I will help thee." In Psalm 89:19 we read, "I have laid help upon one that is mighty; I have exalted one chosen out of the people." This One that is mighty and yet chosen out of the people can only be the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the mighty God, and yet He is man. The great mystery of godliness is "God was manifest in the flesh." (1 TIMOTHY 3:16). He is the only one that God has laid help upon for sinners. He paid the debt of those who trust in Him, who by nature are bankrupt with nothing to pay. Our debt was one of obedience as well as satisfaction and He paid it all. Consider the words of the hymn writer, Isaac Watts:

"Till God in human flesh I see,
My thoughts no comfort find;
The holy, just, and sacred
Three Are terrors to my mind.
But if Immanuel's face appear,
My hope, my joy begins;
His name forbids my slavish fear,
His grace removes my sins."

— David Pledger

Reasonable Service

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." (Romans 12:1)

IN the course of history, many have given their lives for religion. Many have given themselves over to holy living. Most of these people are regarded by mankind to have lived an acceptable life (or died an acceptable death). But it was not *"unto God"*. Therefore, it was not a sacrifice, not holy, and not acceptable.

How can a child of Adam give themselves over fully as a living sacrifice unto God? How can a wretch like me be holy unto God?

How can a maggot be acceptable unto God? Only by the mercies of God, found in Christ Jesus our Lord!

When we are made to see Christ is our living sacrifice, Christ is our *holiness*, Christ is our *acceptance* before God—and that *"It is finished!"*—how reasonable it is for us to turn ourselves over completely to His loving mercies, and to our brethren!

— Kevin Thacker

Serving Brethren

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love…"

(Romans 12:10)

REGARDING how we are to love our brethren the Apostle says *"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord"* (Romans 12:10-11). This service of love is further illuminated in verse 13 *"Distributing* [communicating] *to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality."* In this passage we find that helping and showing hospitality to our brethren is accomplished during times of difficulty. The most meaningful time to show love is during times of tribulation and hardship.

Paul is speaking of love and fervent service in the midst of trying times. *"Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer"* (Romans 12:12). Imagine making sacrifices for one another during times of persecution. Be ready, he says, to serve your brethren even in the midst of tribulation. Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh which seeks to preserve self above all others. Walk in the new man, in fellowship with your God through continual prayer that you may recognize the needs of others. When the heart is set upon this world, many opportunities to serve go unnoticed. How many are lonely? How many struggle? *"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with charity. I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints"* (1 Corinthians 16:13-15). — Eric Lutter

"Beloved, our gospel is not about believing in *something*, it is about believing and trusting *someone*; The Lord Jesus Christ."

A True Believer

"… Sir, we would see JESUS."

(John 12:21)

A TRUE believer in Christ does not desire to know more than the Lord has revealed in His word. While many expend countless hours studying world events, trying to connect those events for a revelation concerning the second coming, the believer studies God's Word which is the revelation of Jesus Christ. While the one trusting Christ is certainly watching expectantly for the return of his Lord, he is not taken up with the events surrounding that return. A believer is taken up only with the Christ Who is returning.

— Marvin Stalnaker